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THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH—JULY 2015

OUR ORIGINAL 13 COLONIES

As you should know, the Confederate Flag has had issues this past month (June, 2015), with it being taken down from the South Carolina state capitol building. (A new Confederate flag had replaced the old one.)

But long before the news of the present day, these United States, did not always have 50 of them. At one time there were only 13 states, and they actually were known as colonies! Here are the official dates of each of those colonies by order of admission (which became states following Vermont's admission to the Union):

Delaware: Admission date December 7, 1787 (Friday).
Pennsylvania: Admission date December 12, 1787 (Wednesday).
New Jersey: Admission date December 18, 1787 (Tuesday).
Georgia: Admission date January 2, 1788 (Wednesday).
Connecticut: Admission date January 9, 1788 (Wednesday).
Massachusetts: Admission date February 6, 1788 (Wednesday).
Maryland: Admission date April 28, 1788 (Monday).
South Carolina: Admission date May 23, 1788 (Friday).
New Hampshire: Admission date June 21, 1788 (Saturday).
Virginia: Admission date June 25, 1788 (Wednesday; later in 1863 parts of Virginia, following secession from the Union in 1861 during the Civil War, was readmitted as West Virginia as the 35th state when the original Virginia became a state again. West Virginia is one of only three states that was originally known as another state by exact name; the others are Kentucky and Maine).
New York: Admission date July 26, 1788 (Saturday).
North Carolina: Admission date November 21, 1789 (Saturday).
Rhode Island: Admission date May 29, 1790 (Saturday).

The following year, Vermont was the first to enter the union as an actual and original state (March 4, 1791 which fell on a Friday). By contrast, California became a state on September 9, 1850 (Monday). And did you know that the states were at one time known as "provinces" similar to what Canada now has, including New York State itself? Happy 239th birthday, America—and be safe!

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